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HISTORY
OF THE
IRISH CATHOLICS OF QUEBEC

**Saint Patrick's Church to the death
of Rev. P. McMahon**

BY
JAMES M. O'LEARY

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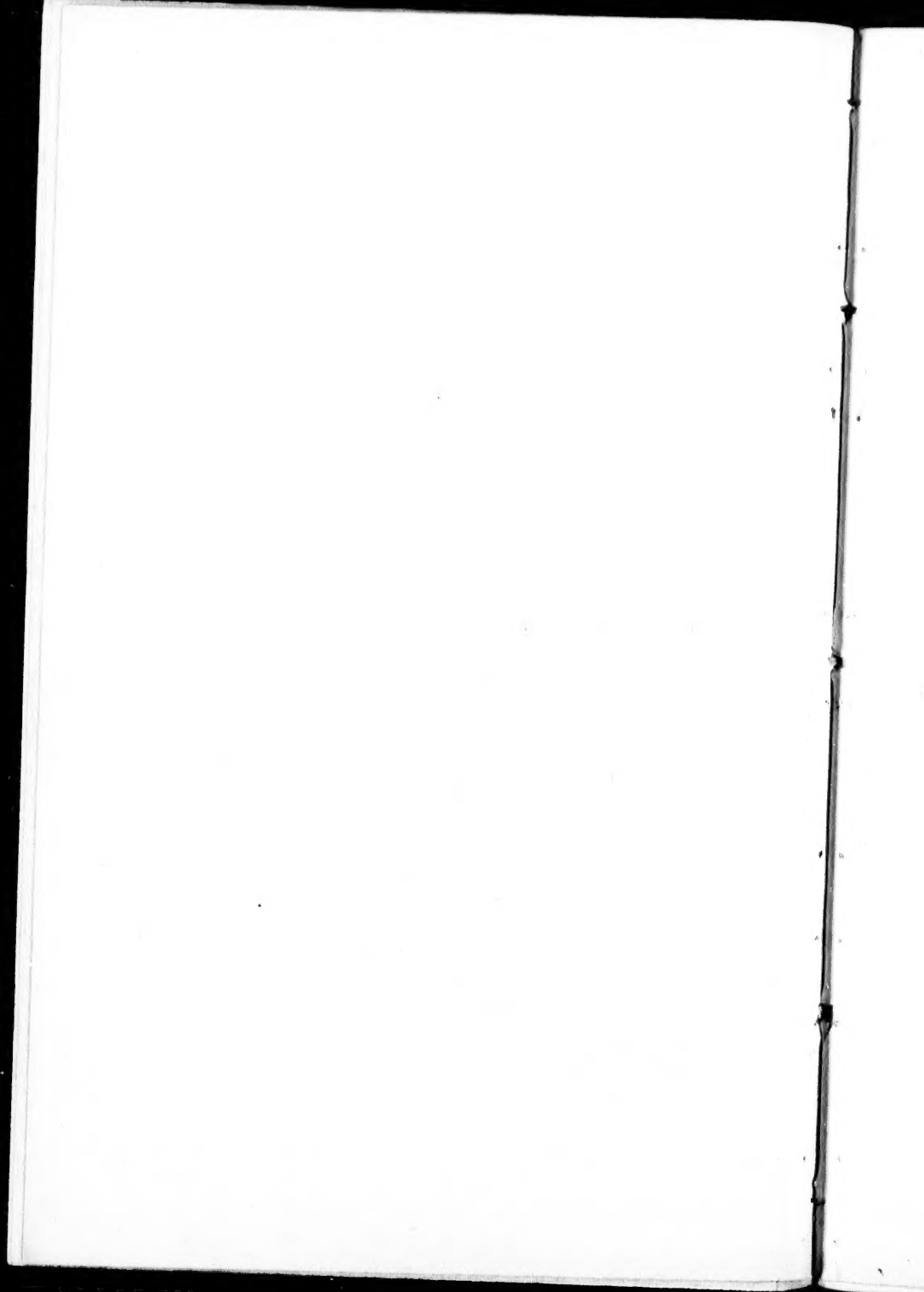
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HISTORY

OF THE

IRISH CATHOLICS OF QUEBEC.

INDEPENDENT POSITION OF THE CHURCH IN LOWER CANADA.

The difficulties encountered by the Irish Catholics of Quebec, in the erection of a place of worship, were similar, in many respects, to those which presented themselves to their fellow countrymen, engaged in a like undertaking, in other parts of North America, and arose, chiefly, from want of means.

There were other difficulties however of a more unsurmountable nature, which, strange as it may appear, were caused by the legal and independent position enjoyed by the Catholic church in Canada. To understand this, it may be necessary to state that the capitulation of Quebec, in 1759, made no change in ecclesiastical affairs, and the immunities and rights, which the Catholic church possessed under the French regime, were

guaranteed by the treaty of Paris in 1763.

The Catholic religion, therefore, was not only free from the penal enactments directed against it in other portions of British Empire, but, in fact, it was the religion of the country, recognized by law, so far, at least as Lower Canada was concerned. The payment of tithes, and other dues, and the erection of churches, when deemed necessary, were enforced by law, and the church temporalities were administered by marguilliers, or church wardens, who were elected by the laity, and who possessed very extensive legal powers.

The Irish Catholics, as a matter of course, became subject to these laws, on settling in the province of Quebec. Speaking a language different from the majority of their co-religionists, they found it absolutely necessary to have a separate place of worship, with full control of its temporalities. This could not be done, unless the marguilliers of Quebec gave up some of the powers they held, but they persistently refused to make any concession on this point, nor could they be induced to build a church for the exclusive use of the Irish Catholics, and retain the management of its revenues, although promised

efficient aid by our people. Indeed throughout the whole of the lengthened negotiations, the marguilliers, with few exceptions, appeared to be ignorant of the fact that the peculiar position of the English speaking Catholics rendered it necessary, that an exception to the general laws, by which the temporal affairs of the church in the province of Quebec, were hitherto managed, should be made in their favor.

FIRST CELEBRATION OF ST PATRICK'S DAY
IN QUEBEC.

The first meeting of the Irish Catholics of Quebec, for religious purposes, was held in March, 1819, when it was resolved that efforts be made to celebrate St. Patrick's day, by a High Mass. A subscription was taken up to defray the necessary expenses, and the festival was celebrated in the chapel of the Congregationists, on the Esplanade Hill. A sermon was preached by the Reverend Michael Dufresne, vicar at Quebec. This gentleman took a deep interest in the temporal and spiritual affairs of the Irish Catholic emigrants, then arriving in Quebec, where there were very few of their nationality, in a position to render them any assistance. From this

time, the celebration of St. Patrick's day has been continued, but there was no other distinct service for the Irish Catholics until 1822, when they were formed into

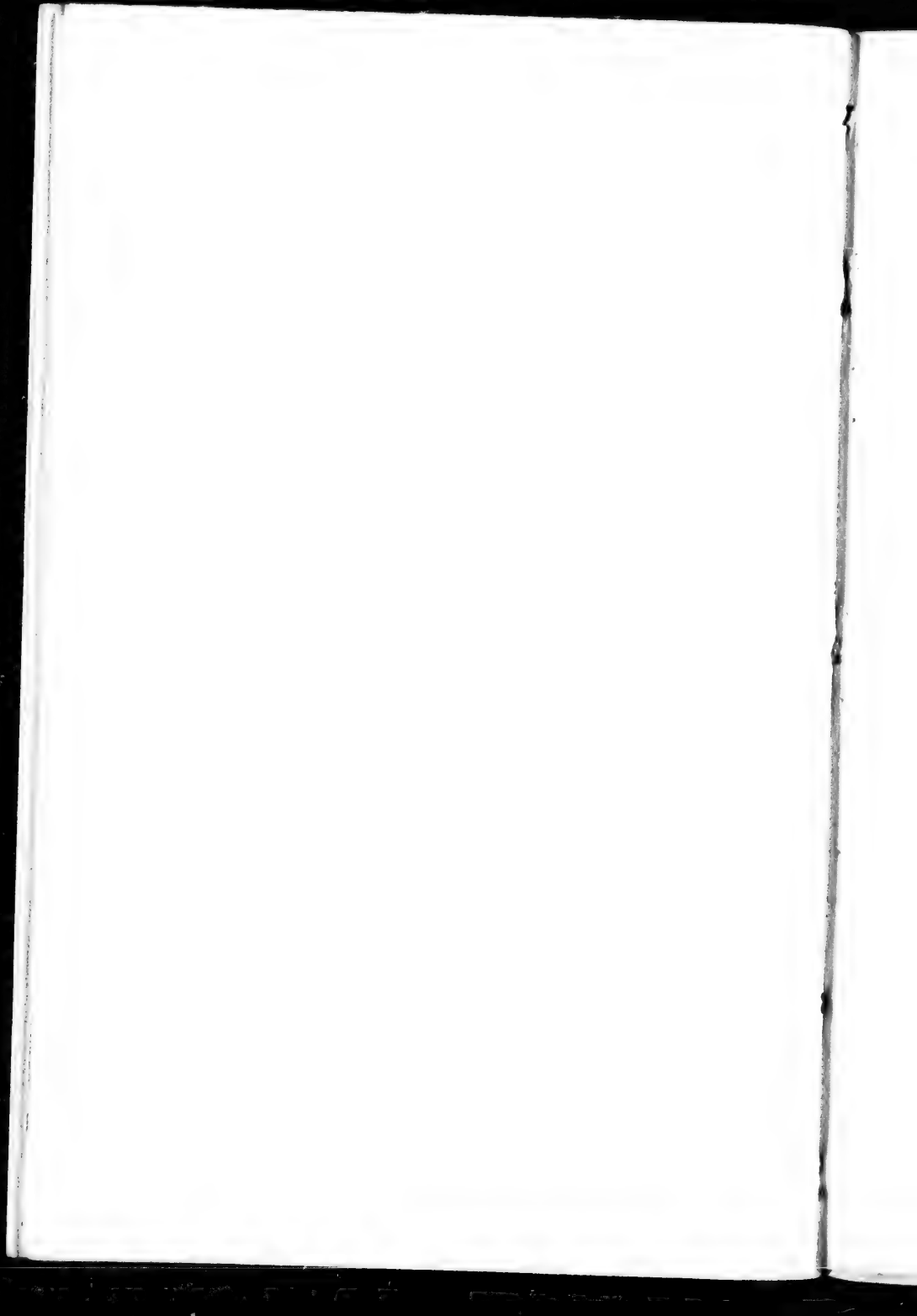
A SEPARATE CONGREGATION,

under the temporary charge of the Reverend Simon Lawlor. He was succeeded by the Reverend Henry McKeagney, who also remained for a short time, and was replaced by the Reverend Patrick McMahon in October, 1822. As the latter was sent, in 1825, as missionary to St. John, N.B., at that time included in the diocese of Quebec, the Reverend Hugh Paisley took charge

From 1822, the Irish Catholics attended Divine service in the

FRENCH CATHEDRAL,

at 8 o'clock on Sundays. As the Canadians met in the same edifice at 9 o'clock, for the Parochical Mass, there was hardly time for a Low Mass, and a short instruction for the Irish. Then the coming in of one congregation, before the other was dismissed, rendered the arrangement very inconvenient for all parties. This state of affairs was



remedied to some extent, shortly after the return of the Reverend Mr. McMahon, in 1828, when he once more became pastor of the Irish Congregation, by the church of

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

in the Lower Town, being placed at his disposal, but this building, even at that time, was too small for all who desired to attend, as hundreds were obliged to remain in the little market square, exposed at all seasons to all kinds of weather without the slightest shelter.

The Irish Catholics, at this time, numbered between 6,000 and 7,000.

EFFORTS TO BUILD A CHURCH.

During the pastorate of the Reverend Mr. Paisley, in March 1828, several prominent members of the congregation endeavoured to obtain permission from the marguilliers to build a church, but without success.

In 1830, a subscription, amounting to £2,250 was raised among the Irish Catholics to secure a church. A petition was drawn up, addressed to Sir James Kempt, asking for a lot belonging to the Government (where the Parliament buildings now stand) but His Lordship

the Bishop declined signing it, and the petition thus fell to the ground.

The Committee, however, did not suffer their energies to abate, and appointed a sub-committee to examine certain lots of ground in the city and suburb. Whilst engaged in this duty, the Committee received a communication from the Coadjutor Bishop, and the marguilliers, in which they expressed a wish that the Irish Catholics should persevere in their intentions to build a church; and stated that they would cheerfully assist in the work, and that a committee was appointed to communicate with a committee of the Lower Town church on the subject. Messrs. William Burke, Michael Quigley, John Stillings John Cannon and Gordian Horan were named to meet the marguilliers, and endeavor to learn their intentions. They met them, submitted their plans, etc., but although an answer was repeatedly asked, they could never procure any information from the marguilliers, of the manner in which their plans were received.

At one of the interviews, the Coadjutor Bishop gave the Reverend Mr McMahon to understand that the marguilliers were disposed to assist the promotion of the religious views of the

Irish Catholics by the grant of £500, annually for 3 years, but it seemed that this proposal had not been authorized.

The Committee then resolved to purchase, *en constitut*, the ground belonging to Colonel Voyer, on St. Joachim street, near the present Montcalm market. They waited on the Bishop requesting him to hold the land, in trust, for them, but he declined, unless the church to be erected would be used, in common, with the Canadians.

Again the marguilliers came forward, and desired to act conjointly with the Committee in the choice of a proper site for the church. Although they would give no guarantee that the Irish Catholics should have the exclusive use of the church, and required the Irish to contribute a certain specific sum towards its erection, the Committee of management, rather than that the Congregation should remain any longer in the inconvenient position in which they were placed, waived all further objections, which were created by the unaccommodating spirit of the Fabrique, and promised on the part of the congregation £500 towards the defraying of the expenses to be incurred in the first year of the undertaking, and a similar sum annually until the work was

completed. A deputation from both bodies were named, and, after several conferences, it was agreed that two lots on Gallow's Hill should be purchased by the Fabrique for £2,000. The Fabrique, however, refused to give more than £1,800, and although the Irish Catholics agreed to pay the difference, the purchase was not completed. The Fabrique then instructed their deputation to look after other lots, and to report within two months. As the Committee's patience was now exhausted, and having come to the conclusion that the marguilliers, as a body, never intended to supply the Irish Catholics with a place of worship, purchased the lots on which the Church and Presbytery now stand.

SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH.

In October 1831, ground was broken for a church, 146 feet long, and 65 feet broad.

The following gentlemen composed the Committee of Management at that time : The Reverend Patrick McMahon, Messrs. John Cannon, Michael Quigley, John Teed, William Downes, William Burke, William Stillings, John Patrick O'Meara, Hugh Maguire, Michael Con-

nolly, Thomas Murphy (Upper Town), John Byrne, Thomas Murphy (Lower Town), Michael Green, John Molloy, Richard McGrath, John Coote, Michael McAvoy, Hugh Murray and Edmund Baillie O'Callaghan.

Work progressed so favorably, that preparations were made for the laying of the corner stone of the church at 4 p.m., on Monday, 11th June, 1832, but as the cholera broke out on the 8th June, the ceremony was postponed. During the reign of terror that existed during that summer, the stone was laid without any public display

FIRST MASS IN ST. PATRICK'S.

The last Sunday service for the Irish in the Lower Town church was on the 30th June, 1833, for at 9 o'clock, on the 7th July, the ceremony of the dedication of St. Patrick's took place, the Very Reverend Jerome Demers, officiating, in the absence of His Lordship the Bishop, and his Coadjutor. High Mass was sung by the Reverend C. F. Bailargeon, afterwards Archbishop of Quebec. In the sanctuary were the Reverends Thomas Maguire, chaplain of the Ursulines, Louis Joseph Demers, one of the many priests who

were forced to leave France, in the revolution of 1793, James Nelligan, afterwards pastor of St. Patrick's, and Thomas L. Brassard, vicar at Quebec. The sermon was preached by the Reverend Mr. McMahon. who took as his text, Genesis, chapter 28, verse 18 'And Jacob arising in the morning, took the stone, which he had laid under his head and set it up for a pillar, pouring oil upon the top of it.' The collection amounted to \$700. The church then contained 116 pews, which were leased for three years, at an average of \$17 a year. In 1836, the galleries were completed, and on the 28th August, the pews there were leased.

DONATIONS

Were received, at the opening of the church from the following persons, namely : Six sets of vestments, one from His Lordship the Bishop, as well as a magnificent chalice, and rich altar front, one set from the Coadjutor Bishop, one from the Reverend Ladies of the Ursulines, one from Mrs. John Teed, one from a Mrs. O'Neill, one from a member of the Congregation, albs. etc , from the Curate of Quebec, cruets and basin, all of solid silver, from Mrs. A

Amyot, and a full length painting of the Crucifixion, from Mr. Bowman, an American artist.

On the 23rd December 1834, the Honorables John Frazer, James Hastings Kerr, Edward Bowen, George Pemberton, and Messrs. Henry Lemesurier, J. B. Forsyth, G. B. Cullen, and Benjamin Cole, as a committee on the part of the Protestants of Quebec, presented the Reverend Mr. McMahon with £220 for the purchase of an organ. The organ arrived from England, on the 8th June, 1837, and was used for the first time, on Sunday, the 9th July, 1837.

On the 8th September, 1835, Lord Aylmer presented, for the use of the church, two valuable and richly framed paintings, and in 1836, Mr. Joseph Legaré gave his life size painting of the Crucifixion, now in the St. Bridget's Asylum, while Mr. Bowman's gift, on the same subject found its way to Sherbrooke, Que

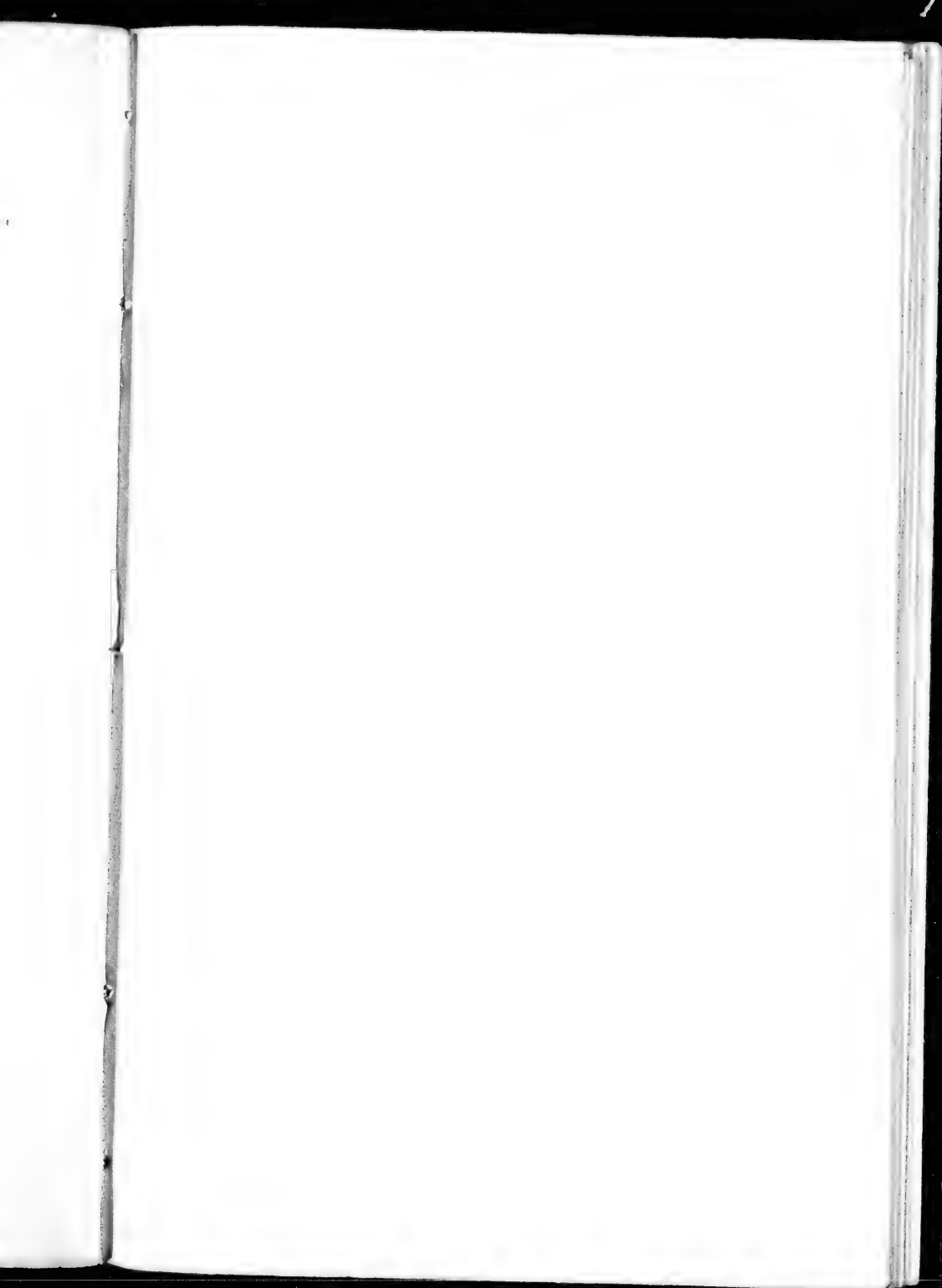
ATTEMPT TO OPEN A STREET THROUGH THE CHURCH PROPERTY.

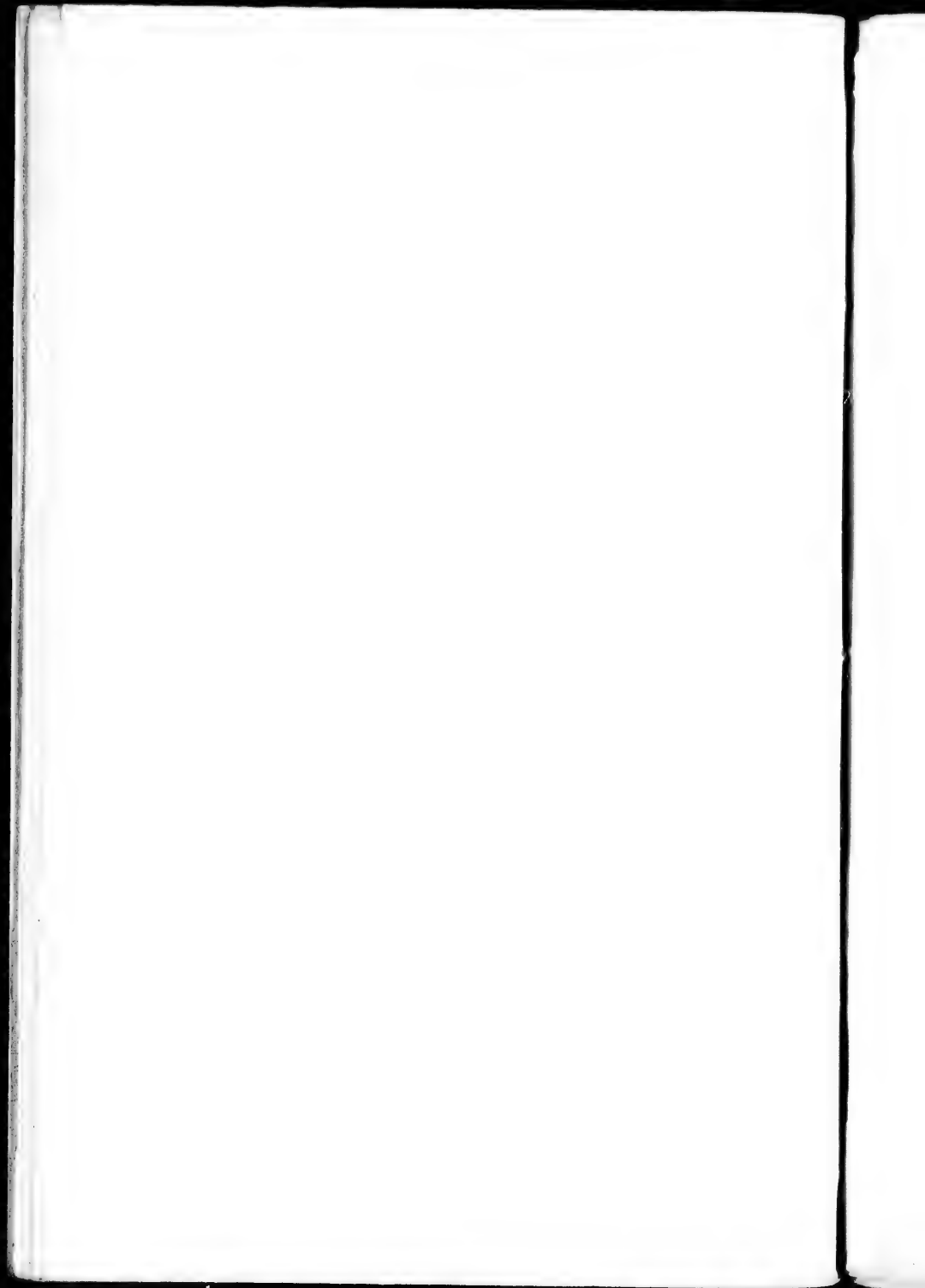
In February, 1841, a petition was presented to the City Council, signed by Dr. Jas. A. Sewell, Pierre Dugal, and others, praying that D'Aiguillon

(now Charlevoix) street be continued from Palace to St Stanislas streets. As this request, if granted, would lead to the appropriation of 23 feet of the church property, the Committee of Management of St. Patrick's church protested that the proposed street was not required for the convenience of the public, adding that it was intended to build a school house in the rear of the church. Those in favor of the street urged that the property claimed, appeared as a street, in the original deeds of concession, and in proof of this, called attention to the Magistrate's Book, for 1824, in which would be found the report of a jury of twelve citizens, declaring that "there is a reserve made for the Rue D'Aiguillon, and that the property for the street belongs to the public." The question was referred to the Road Committee, who, on the 9th March, 1841 reported.

"That in the opinion of the Committee, there can exist no doubt of a reserve having been made, and still existing, for the prolongation of D'Aiguillon street, from Palace to St. Stanislas, there to join St. Henry, (now Elgin) street.

"That the opening of the said street would be of an advantage to the pro-





prietors, and residents in the immediate neighborhood.

‘ That the Committee would recommend that the line of street, running from Palace to St. Henry street, be opened as soon as the necessary funds for purchasing the private property, situated in it, be obtained, either from the City Clerk, or by means of individual subscriptions ’

There the matter rested, until March, 1845, when Dr. Sewell and Mr. Dugal forwarded a petition to the City Council, in which they stated that the Committee of Management were taking measures for the enlargement of St. Patrick’s church, which, when completed, would extend across that portion of D’Aiguillon street, situated between the Rue des Pauvres (Palace street) and St Stanislas street, and asked the Council to take up the report of the Road Committee, on the 9th March, 1841, and to adopt such immediate steps as they might deem fit.

A petition from the Committee of Management was also sent in, requesting that the prayer of Dr. Sewell and Mr. Dugal be not entertained.

Both petitions were referred to the Road Committee. On the 12th March, they reported that they had obtained

the opinion of the legal adviser of the Corporation, the late Honorable Judge Duval, on the subject, which was, that the claims of the Corporation, to the ground in question, was not well founded in law, and that the present proprietors could not be compelled to give up the property without being paid the value thereof.

The Committee were also of opinion, that this point being settled, and they being divided on the propriety of recommending to the Council, the purchase of the ground required for the continuation of D'Aiguillon street, decided on requesting to be allowed simply to report the above opinion of the legal adviser.

Moved by Councillor Michael Connolly, seconded by Councillor John Doran: "That the public has no right to the property alluded to in the petition of Messrs. Sewell and Dugal, and that it is inexpedient to purchase the ground for opening the street, as mentioned in the same."

After a long discussion, Councillor H. S. Scott, moved in amendment, seconded by Councillor John McLeod: "That the Road Committee be instructed to prepare and lay before the Council, at its next meeting, an estimate

of the probable expense of opening D'Aiguillon street, from Palace street to St. Stanislas.

YEAS.—Messrs. Scott, Wilson, Lloyd and McLeod.

NAYS.—Messrs. Glackmeyer, Robitaille, Connolly, Rousseau, O'Brien, Doran, Savard, Tourangeau and Plamondon.

Another amendment was then proposed by Councillor John Wilson, seconded by Councillor H. S. Scott :

“That the Corporation will cause the said street to be opened, provided the whole expense of doing so, be paid by the parties interested.”

This amendment was also lost, and the main motion carried on the following division :—

YEAS.—Messrs. Glackmeyer, Robitaille, Connolly, Rousseau, O'Brien, Doran, Tourangeau and Plamondon.

NAYS —Messrs. Scott, Wilson, Lloyd, McLeod and Savard.

And this action set the question at rest, forever.

THE CHURCH EXTENDED.

In 1845, St. Patrick's church was extended, but as the Irish Catholics of Quebec then numbered between ten and

twelve thousand, more ground was required, and a lot in rear of the church was purchased from Mrs. Henrietta Smith, widow of Chief Justice Sewell. The deed was passed before R. J. Belleau, N P., on the 22nd September, 1846, and conveyed to the church the lot on which the old sacristy, and the hall of the St. Patrick's Catholic Institute were erected together with the yard, between these buildings. The lot was stated to be 70 feet broad, and 97 feet deep. On it stood, at the date of sale, a building known as the Royal Circus or Theatre.

The deed also conveyed a strip of ground on the western side of the above lot acquired by Mrs. Sewell, from her son, Dr. James A. Sewell, which was afterwards used as a passage leading to the Institute.

The wall between the property, owned at that time by Dr. Sewell, and the church is *metoyen*, and the right of drop into the property of the Doctor was conceded, so long as any portion of the theatre remains standing, but no longer.

It may be interesting to say that the return of births, marriages and deaths among the Catholic population of Quebec in 1846, shows the following :

| | Baptisms. | Marriages. | Deaths. |
|-------------|-----------|------------|---------|
| Canadians . | 514 | 110 | 434 |
| Irish . . . | 558 | 125 | 455 |

FAREWELL ADDRESSES.

Among the vicars, appointed to St. Patrick's church, few were more beloved by the Congregation than the Reverend Antoine Campeau who died on the 1st February, 1890. To the close of his life, he remembered the many acts of kindness he received from the Irish Catholics.

On Sunday, 2nd October, 1842, the Congregation presented him, with the following address :—

Reverend and Dear Sir,

“Your sudden and unexpected removal is a subject of sincere regret to a very large portion of the Irish Catholics of this city, for the humility and zeal you manifested in the discharge, of the duties of your ministry, even towards the humblest of our congregation, particularly in the catechising, and instructing of our youth, in the first principles of our Holy religion ; and at your departure from amongst us, we renew our attachment towards you, and fervently pray that God may grant you the blessings of health, long life, and a

continuance of that Christian fortitude and patience, that characterized you, whilst amongst us, to enable you to discharge the duties of a new and extensive mission, (at Percé)

“Taking leave, we beg to assure you, Reverend Sir, you will carry with you, our sincere esteem and regard, and we fervently pray the Giver of all good to reward you, for the services you have rendered, and the labors you have endured amongst us, with unmeasurable and lasting happiness beyond the grave.”

The Reverend gentleman replied as follows :

GENTLEMEN.—“Please accept my sincerest thanks, for the sentiments of benevolence expressed in the address presented to me, in the name of the Irish Catholics of this city, as also for the liberal and generous donation, which you have deposited in my hands. Be assured, gentlemen, that I am deeply sensible of the steps you have taken, in my favor, which will contribute to strengthen the ties, that have already bound me, to the Irish Roman Catholic population of this city.

“Called by the will of God, and that of my superiors to labor in another portion of His vineyard, I hope that

Almighty God, who had designed me to labor for a time amongst you, will vouchsafe to look upon and bless whatever little good I may have done during that time. May Heaven pour down its choicest blessings upon that interesting portion of His flock, upon those dear children, the hopes of our religion, and country, who, during five years, have been the greatest object of my care

“For you, gentlemen, wherever I may pass the remainder of my days, the same remembrance of your esteem and generosity will be always present to my mind, and I will never cease to pray for your spiritual and temporal welfare, hoping that you will not forget me in your prayers.”

REVEREND BERNARD O'REILLY.

No little excitement was created in the congregation of St. Patrick's church, when in September, 1846, it was learned that the Reverend, now Monsignor, Bernard O'Reilly, vicar at St. Patrick's, was to be removed. This cast a gloom over an attached and affectionate flock, and their regret was shared in by their Protestant fellow-citizens, who acknowledged his worth, and admired his zeal

in the discharge of his duties, as exhibited, in an earnest desire to maintain peace and good will among all creeds and different races. They looked upon him as warm hearted, liberal in thought, and deed, while consistently and ardently attached to his religion, and possessed of a disposition overflowing with charity.

On Wednesday, 16th September, the congregation met to consider the question of his removal. At this meeting a deputation was named to wait upon His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec to represent the serious injury which would be inflicted upon the St Patrick's congregation by the removal of the Reverend Mr O'Reilly, more especially while the Reverend Mr. McMahon was dangerously ill.

The following gentlemen composed the deputation :—

Honbles J. Fraser, Judge Power, Messrs. Edward Ryan, J. P. O'Meara, Chas. Alleyn, Chas. Sharples, John Sharples, Henry O'Connor, Michael Connolly, J. P. Bradley, Jas. Kelly, J. J. Nesbitt, Wm. Downes, Wm. Cronin, Hugh Murray, T. C. Lee, L. A. Cannon, John Maguire, Miles Kelly, Wm. O'Brien, John Doran, Maurice O'Leary, J. R. Day, Wm. Richardson,

Wm. Quinn, Rodk McGillis, Joseph Cantillon, Luke Brothers, Denis Maguire, Jas. Farley, Peter Donohue, Chas. McDonald, Chris Flanagan, Edward Duggan, Richard Charlton, Jas Walsh, James Colford, Edward Byrne, and William Tims.

His Grace the Archbishop, in reply to an address from the deputation, said that the interests of religion alone actuated him in the spiritual authority which had been entrusted to him, and assured them that it was this, and this alone, which induced him to withdraw the Reverend Mr O'Reilly from amongst them, to give him charge of the mission at Sherbrooke, where the presence of a clergyman of his talents and ability were so indispensably necessary

On Sunday, 27th September, the congregation met, and the chairman, John Sharples, Esq., presented Father O'Reilly with a purse of £450, accompanied by the following address :—

“To the Reverend Bernard O'Reilly.

“REVEREND AND DEAR SIR.—We, the congregation of St Patrick's Church, over whose spiritual interests you have watched, in connection with the Reverend Mr. McMahon, during the last

four years, cannot permit you to leave us without publicly declaring to you the sense which we entertain of your past services.

“With an untiring but tolerant zeal, you have labored to advance our religion. Where the wants of your flock were most urgent, you have been found, and actuated by a truly enlightened policy, you have particularly devoted yourself to the spiritual education of the youth of this congregation.

“In difficulty, we have found you a guide, in sorrow, a comforter, and we are convinced that your unwearied exertions of those occasions of public misfortune, with which our city has been so painfully afflicted (the Suburbs’ fires of 1845) have contributed to draw closer those bonds of regard, by which should be bound, Christians of all denominations.

“We owe it to you to declare that your removal will be a severe loss to all, but to the youth of the congregation, especially, (so much improved by your efforts), it will be a grievous injury.

“Permit us, Reverend Sir, to present you a purse containing £450, as a testimonial of our regard and gratitude, trusting that ere long we may have the

benefit and pleasure of beholding you among us, and begging of you to be assured that wherever Providence may cast your lot, you will bear with you the best wishes of this congregation for your happiness and other fervent prayers to the Ruler of all things for your temporal and spiritual welfare."

After a few moments pause, and amid the stillness that reigned, Father O'Reilly came forward and said :

"GENTLEMEN.—Since I first had the happiness of being placed among you, I have invariably received from the congregation of St. Patrick's Church, the Committee of Management, and your revered Pastor, daily and hourly, marks of your kindness and esteem. But the past four years has elicited from my countrymen in Quebec so many demonstrations of unexpected and unwonted affection, that I cannot forbear, on the present occasion, from expressing my deep and fervent thanks.

"For the sentiments conveyed in your address, I beg you will receive my best, and most sincere acknowledgements. For the generous donation accompanying it, how can I ever sufficiently testify my gratitude.

"It breaks my heart to leave such a people, and God, I trust, will accept

and bless my departure from among you, as the most painful sacrifice I could be called upon to make.

"In conclusion, I must ask that Providence, to whom you commend my welfare, to preserve and increase, in the midst of the St. Patrick's congregation, that spirit of peace and brotherly love which it has been the constant duty of your pastors to inculcate, and which it will be their happiness to see reigning in this community."

On Monday, 28th September, 1846, the Reverend Mr. O'Reilly left Quebec. He was accompanied from the St. Patrick's presbytery to the Napoleon wharf, by an immense procession, comprising Protestants as well as Catholics, while women and children crowded the sidewalks.

At the steamer, leave taking commenced, and so fervent was it that the reverend gentleman was completely overcome. It was one of the saddest partings ever witnessed in old Quebec.

PRESENTATION TO THE REVEREND MR.
M'MAHON.

Mindful of the long and faithful services rendered by the Reverend Patrick McMahon, to the St. Patrick's

congregation, the congregation resolved to present him with a testimonial of their esteem and gratitude. They accordingly appointed the following gentlemen, a committee to collect subscriptions and carry out their wishes :

John Sharples, Esq., Chairman ; J. P. Bradley, Esq., Secretary ; Chas. Sharples, Esq., Treasurer ; Honble Judge Power, Messrs. Michael Connolly, Charles Alleyn, Maurice O'Leary, Thomas Murphy, Denis Maguire, William Downes, Charles McDonald, J. P. O'Meara, Henry O'Connor, Hugh Murray, Roderick McGillis, William Quinn James Walsh Joseph Cantillon, John J. Nesbitt, Thomas Gahan, James Prendergast, William Cronin, Edward G. Cannon, John Maguire and William Richardson.

The Committee waited upon the Reverend Mr. McMahon, after Grand Mass on Sunday, 21st March, 1847, in St. Patrick's Church, and in the presence of the congregation, the chairman, John Sharples, Esq., read the following address :—

“Reverend and Dear Sir,

“We, the Committee, appointed at the meeting of the congregation of St. Patrick's Church, of this city, forming

your spiritual flock, held on the 5th day of July last, have the honor, on the part of this congregation, in obedience to the resolution passed on that occasion, to pray your acceptance of a complete altar service of silver

“Though, in the performance of this duty, it is unnecessary to express our sentiments, and those of this congregation towards you, standing as we do, within this splendid edifice, the monument alike of your piety and your patriotism, still we cannot deprive ourselves of the pleasure of publicly declaring our unanimous opinion of your private virtues and your professional worth.

“By your untiring energy and zeal, careless of the sacrifice of health itself, you have collected the scattered wanderers from a distant land. into a happy, numerous, and a powerful class, conscious of their civil duties and careful to perform them. You have established schools for the use and benefit of the youth of this congregation, and in your lectures from the pulpit you have taught the adults to respect themselves, and to compete, through the unavoidable struggles of life, in honest emulation with their fellow men.

“With a devoted charity, during two

successive years, when an infectious and fatal disease (Asiatic cholera) decimated this city, your attendance, in the cause of religion, and humanity, at the couch of poverty, contagion and death, was unwearied, and upon all occasions, and under all circumstances, the orphan, the widow and the emigrant have found in you their comforter, their counsellor and their friend.

“This congregation, by your preaching, has been taught, and, by your example, has been shown a spirit of friendship to their fellow-citizens, of loyalty to their Sovereign, and of devotion to their religion.

“On the part of this congregation, Reverend Sir, we are instructed to thank you for the favor conferred on them, by sitting for your portrait, which they have caused Mr. Hamel, a native artist of great merit, to take, and which, in its execution, fully realizes the high idea we have been led to form of his talents, and, in common, with the admirable design and finish of the altar service, also the work of a native artist, Mr. Sasseville, of this city, shows a high state of the fine arts in Canada.

“The congregation have made the necessary arrangements to having this

portrait, in the sacristy of this Church, that within the wall of the edifice itself, their descendents may learn to know the features and gratefully to cherish the memory of the founder of the first Irish Catholic Church in Canada, and that they may not remember their forefathers as men unmindful of him, who bore the heat and burden of the day, not sympathizing in his trials and sacrifices, and ungrateful for his most valuable services.

“Your whole flock, Reverend and Dear Sir, offer their prayers to the Great Disposer of all things, that He may be graciously pleased to spare you, many, many years in health and happiness over them, to increase the benefit of the great work which you have perspected, to experience the love of your people, and their veneration for your virtues, and to preserve them, by your exertions, and your example, as citizens, respectable, as a class, united, and as a congregation, virtuous.”

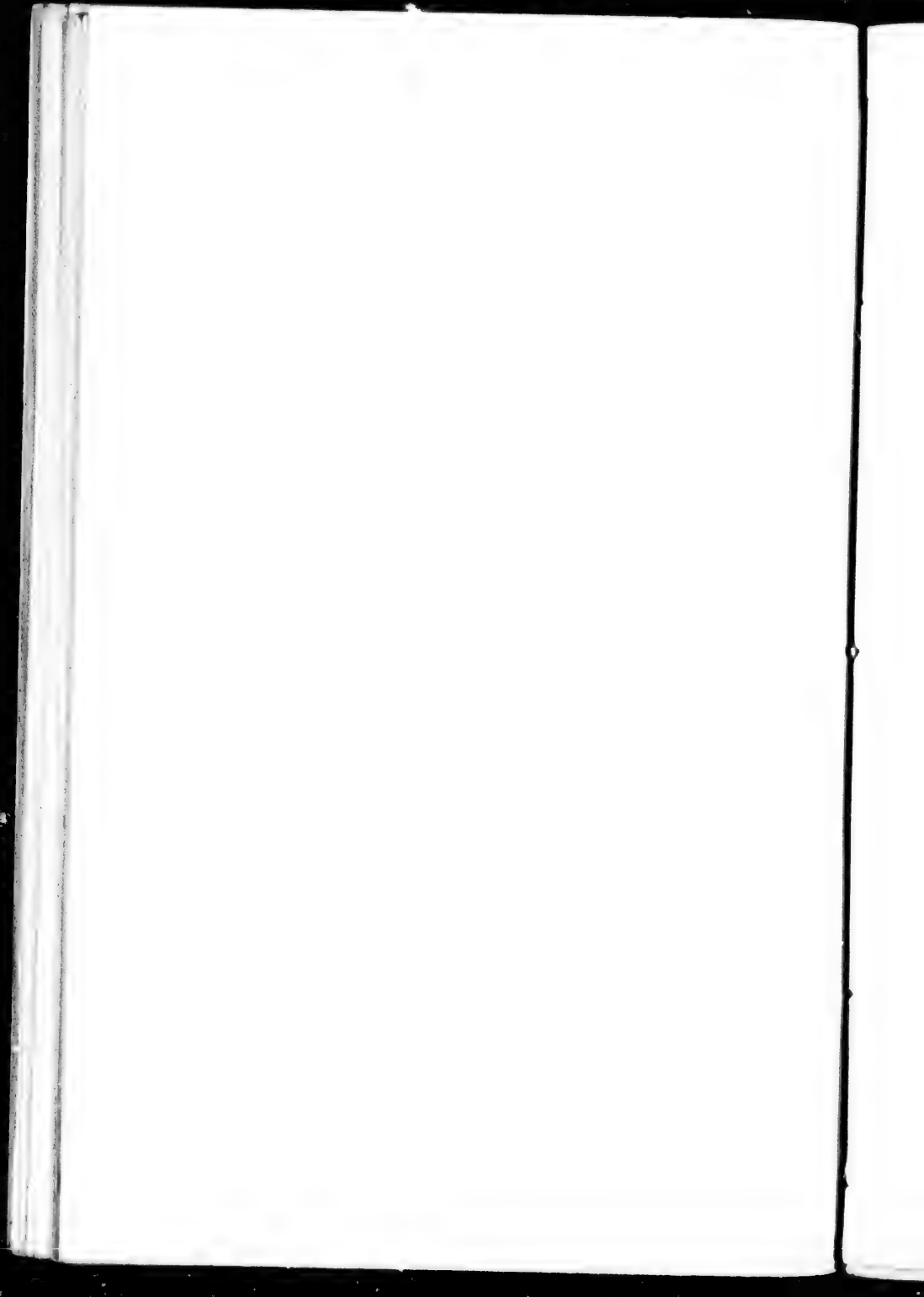
The Reverend Mr. McMahon made the following :

“BELOVED FRIENDS.—The ardor with which you push forward to compliment me, the affectionate spirit of attachment, and esteem breathed in your

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address, the magnitude and generosity of the splendid donation that accompanies it, amounting in value to upwards of £200, all excite such a tumult of feeling in my bosom as to render me entirely unable to give expression to the sentiments of my heart.

“I need not, I trust, beloved friends, assure you that I feel deeply grateful to you for this address, and the very substantial proof of your affection that accompanies it. It gives me pain, however, to know how utterly unworthy I am of the high compliment you pay me. Your affectionate good nature has imposed upon you by making you over-rate my slender abilities and services, which, if they were as extensive as they are limited, would still in my estimation be very far from deserving the flattering eulogy you have been pleased to pass upon them.

“Ah, beloved friends, how prone are the virtuous and single of heart to overvalue the slender merits of others, and to make large allowances for their faults and imperfections

“If in the discharge of the sacred duties of my ministry I have labored with assiduity and success, how pleasing and delightful was the task. Light is the labor of him who cultivates a rich

and fertile soil. Yes, beloved friends, in the discharge of my varied and multiplied duties among you, during the long period of a quarter of a century, I have always felt gratified to find you ever ready to respond to my wishes and to be guided by my instructions.

“The splendid church, in which I feel this day both pride and pleasure in addressing you, is the work of your own hands, and not of mine, for what could I have been able to effect without your cordial and unanimous co-operation. Yes, beloved friends, this noble edifice, which you have raised for the worship of the God of our Fathers is, and will continue to be a lasting monument of your piety and your patriotism, and an incontestable evidence to all, of your love of religion, as well as of the esteem in which you are held by your fellow-citizens of other denominations, who generously came forward to assist you in its erection, and I feel satisfied that the recollection of this fact will not fail to induce you to cultivate friendly feeling towards them, and to preserve unimpaired that spirit of peace, harmony, and good understanding, which now so happily exists amongst us, and which, as you well know is the vital principle, the very life and soul of every community.

“I have lived, beloved friends, to see a portion, at least, of my fondest hopes realized, and were it not that my shattered constitution, and fast declining health forbid me to look forward to any length of days, I should still hope to be spared to witness the accomplishment of other important projects, which I have long been considering, and which, I feel convinced, would very much tend to the happiness, respectability and prosperity of this congregation, but I have every reason to believe that Providence has reserved the realization of these fond projects to other days and abler hands. In the meantime, whatever the will of the Almighty Disposer of events may be in my regard, I beg to assure you that I never will, I never can forget your very great kindness to me. Your affectionate wishes for my health and preservation I also fully appreciate. I return you my sincere thanks for the same, and beg to assure you that there is a perfect reciprocity of feeling on my part.

“In conclusion, I feel it to be my duty to profit of the present memorable occasion to inform you that the very best dispositions exist in the minds of our ecclesiastical superiors towards us, and that the deepest interest is felt by

our venerable Archbishop, in every matter that concerns the welfare and prosperity of this establishment. It is for you to turn all these circumstances to your advantage, and by faithfully persevering in your characteristic love of your religion, respect for your clergy and obedience to the church to merit a continuation of these favors.

“I accept, beloved friends, with heartfelt thanks the magnificent present which your generous affection proffers to me. I shall use it, according to your pious wishes, and ever regard it as a monument of the love and esteem of a people dear to my heart. I am deeply conscious how little my services among you deserve so high a compliment, but it will serve as a memorial to stimulate me to future zeal and exertion, and to remind me how fervently and incessantly I should pray for the temporal and eternal happiness of the good, the generous and noble minded congregation of St. Patrick’s Church.

“I beg once more to return you my most grateful acknowledgments, for your unmixed kindness to me, and pray that the Great Giver of all good may shower down his choicest blessings upon you and yours, during this life, and perfect them by bringing you all to the imperishable riches of Heaven.”

DEATH OF THE REVEREND PATRICK
M'MAHON

The Irish Catholics were now, thanks to their sobriety, industry and perseverance, holding an honorable position among their fellow citizens in Quebec. In the trades, as in the learned professions, they were forging ahead. From Point à Carcy to Sillery, in the merchant's offices, as on the now deserted wharves and abandoned coves, the hum of Irish labor was heard from break of day to starlight, from May to November, while Irish footprints were becoming more plainly visible in the Canadian sanctuary and Canadian cloister.

The leading thought of the Irish settlers was to give their children a good education, and one has only to refer to the records of the educational houses in Quebec, religious and lay, and there he will see that in the race after knowledge, the children of other creeds and origins found able competitors in the sons and daughters of the emigrants, who, on landing in Quebec, had only their physical strength and powers of endurance to depend on.

No wonder then that the Reverend Mr. McMahon, felt 'both pride and

pleasure," on the 21st March, 1847, in addressing the St Patrick's congregation, as he could not help thinking of the great advancement made by them since his appointment as pastor. On this day from the altar steps he saw his flock united and zealous in the discharge of their religious duties, and from the steps of the church the same union prevailed, each willing to help the other and all eager to show their affection for him at every turn.

From the far away coves, from the distant parts of the city, in all weathers, at all seasons the Irish Catholics assisted at the Divine offices in St. Patrick's church, "our own church," as they fondly termed it. In this way they became acquainted with each other. A union was formed, and the strength of this union was shown on more than one occasion.

Priest and people were one. Priest—he was of the people. - he had grown up among them, he had devoted the best years of this life in their service. he knew their manners, and customs their faults and their failing. People, they felt that in him, they had, at all times, in health or in sickness, in prosperity or adversity, a sincere friend and wise counsellor, whose constant

aim was to advance their spiritual and temporal interests. In doubt, he advised them. In necessity, he relieved them, and in affliction allayed their grief.

It was therefore, with the most poignant regret, the congregation of St. Patrick's learned that their esteemed pastor was ill beyond recovery. Too true were his words, that his shattered constitution and his fast declining health forbade him to look forward to any length of days, for at half-past five o'clock on the morning of the 3rd October, 1851, the tolling of the St. Patrick's Church bell announced that his life was ended.

THE FUNERAL OBSEQUIES.

At 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 6th October, the funeral took place amid the greatest concourse of people ever witnessed in Quebec on a like occasion. The procession left his late residence in the following order :

Children of the Christian Brothers
School.

The Clergy.

The Undertaker.

The attendant physicians, Painchaud,
Morin and Nault

The coffin carried by young men,
members of St. Patrick's Church.

The pall being borne by the following
reverend gentlemen :

Jos Auclair, Curate of Quebec.

E G Plante, Chaplain of the Gen-
eral Hospital

John C. O'Grady, Curate of St.
Catherine, Que

L. J. Casault, Superior of the Quebec
Seminary

Jas. Nelligan, Curate of St. Sylvester.

Michael Kerrigan, vicar of St.
Patrick's Church.

The Relatives.

Committee of Management of St.
Patrick's Church.

Marguilliers of Notre Dame de Quebec.

City Council

Magistrates.

Heads of the Military Departments

Advocates.

Doctors.

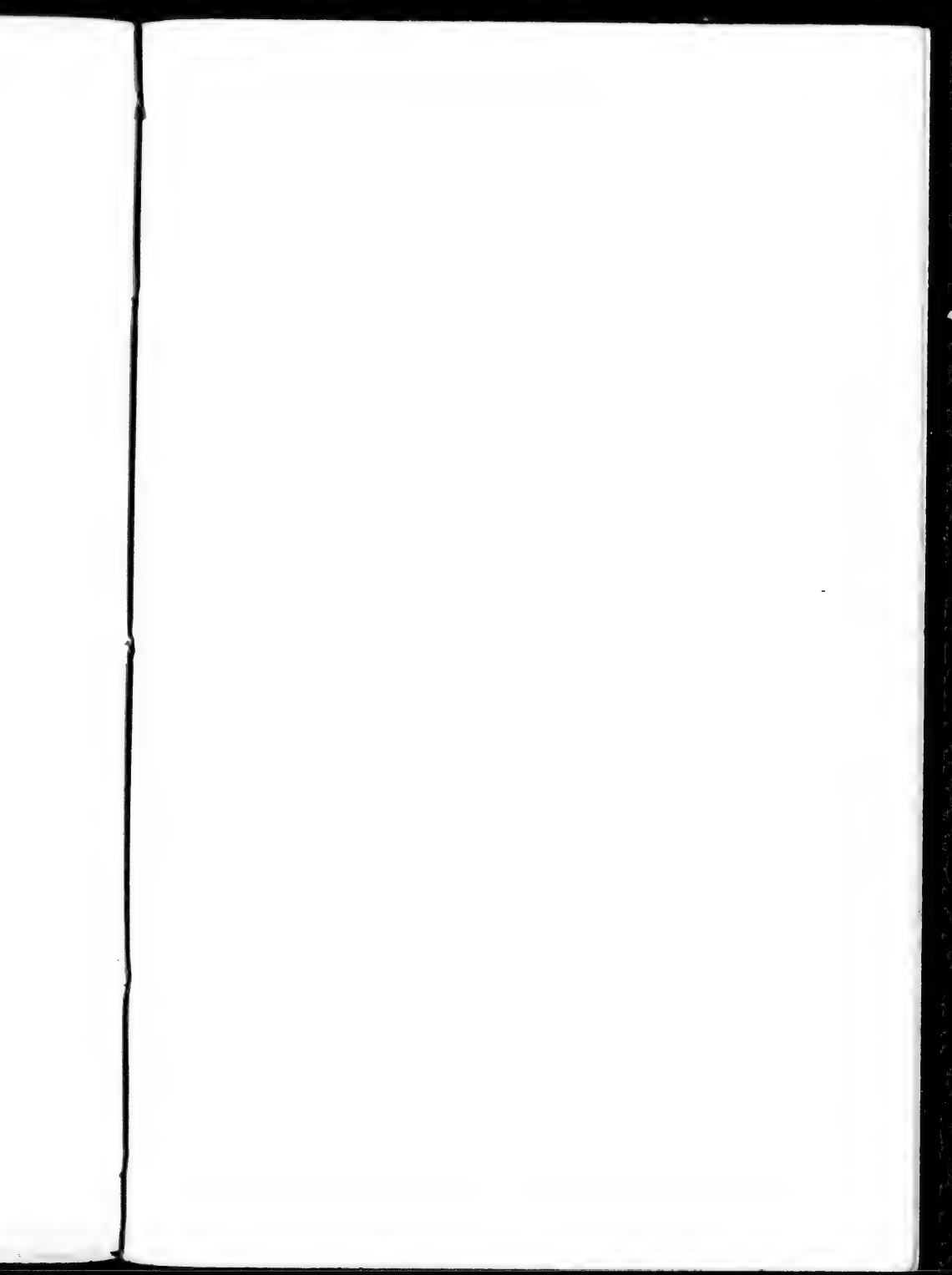
Notaries.

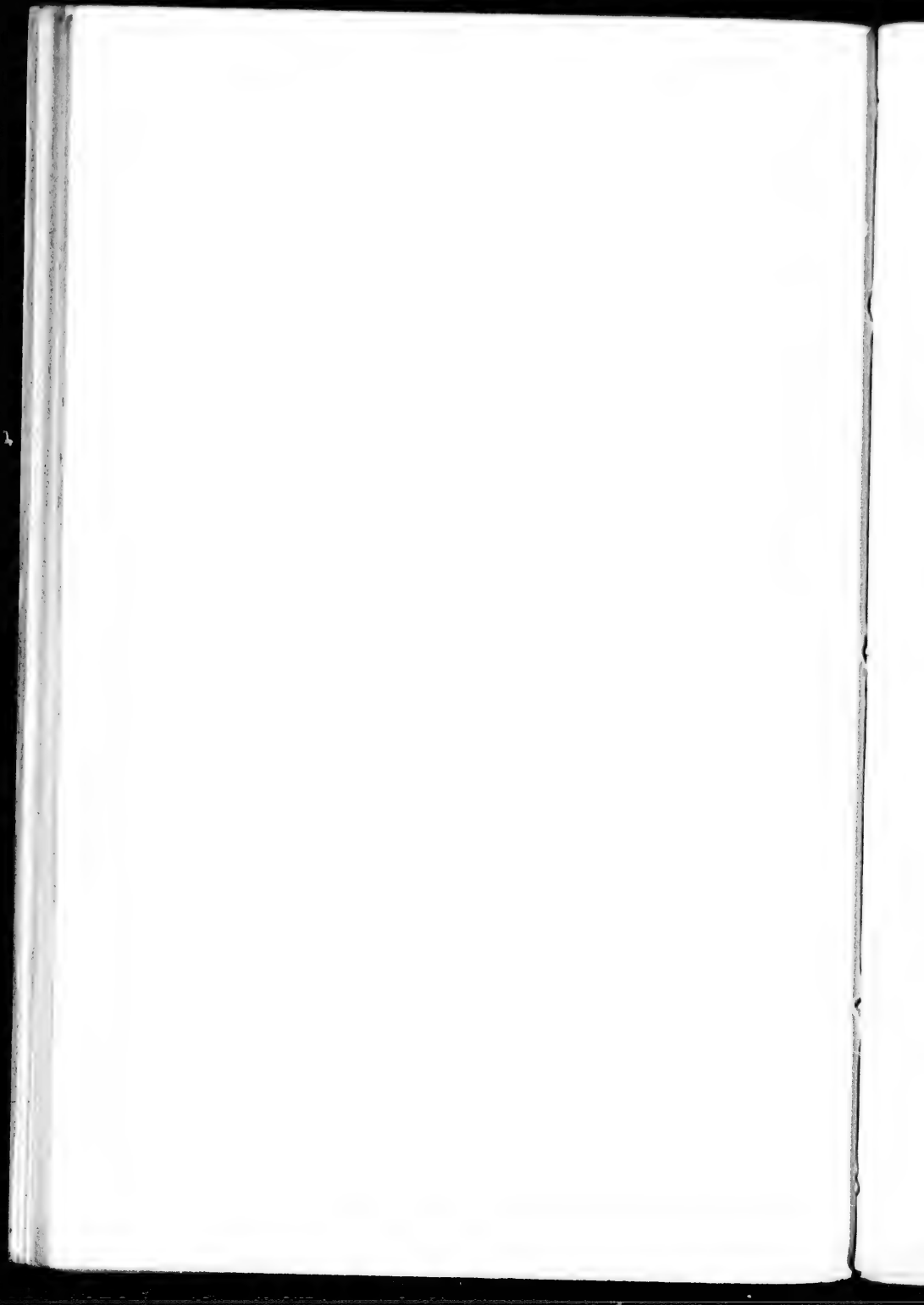
St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The Catholic Soldiers of the Garrison.
Police.

Citizens, eight abreast.

The route was St. Sanislas, St. Ann,
Treasure, Buade, Fabrique, St. John,
Palace and St Helen streets to St.





Patrick's Church, which was hung in black from altar to organ.

His Lordship C. F. Baillargeon, Bishop of Tloa, and coadjutor to His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec, officiated.

The Reverend Mr. Kerrigan preached. In the course of his sermon, he stated that the Reverend Mr. McMahon was born at Abbeyleix, Queen's county, Ireland, on the 24th August, 1796, that he completed his classical studies in Carlow College, and in 1818 arrived in Canada, and was appointed one of the professors in the college at St. Hyacinthe, Que., where he prosecuted his theological studies until ordained priest, on the 6th October, 1822, when he was for a short time attached to the parish of Notre Dame de Quebec, in charge of that portion of it speaking the English language. The important mission of St. John, N B, having become vacant in 1825, His Lordship Bishop Plessis, of Quebec, confided it to the charge of the Reverend Mr. McMahon, whose merit and capacity he had already appreciated. The deep sorrow manifested by the inhabitants of St. John, N.B., when in 1828 their much esteemed pastor was recalled to resume the exercise of his ministry among his old parishioners in Quebec, sufficiently proved how much

in the short space of three years he had won their confidence and esteem

Th : reverend gentleman then alluded to the fact, that in 1828, the Irish Catholics, though numerous, possessed no church, that on Father McMahon's arrival he resolved on procuring for his flock a suitable place wherein to assemble for their religious duties, and that by his energetic perseverance, seconded by the good will and generosity of his people, assisted by their fellow citizens of other religious denominations, St. Patrick's Church was erected, and in 1833 their zealous pastor had the happiness to see within its walls a numerous and flourishing congregation.

Father Kerrigan also spoke of the deceased as being gifted with oratorical talents of the first order, and a remarkable energy of character.

In some parts of his discourse, when he recalled to mind the many and so well known virtues of the departed, the congregation burst into paroxisms of weeping impossible to describe.

At the close of the service, the coffin was deposited under the centre aisle of the church facing the pulpit, "in the midst of my people" as Father McMahon desired. A brass tablet, bearing the following inscription was placed on his grave:

Beneath this tablet,
Repose
The Mortal remains of
The Rev'd Patrick McMahon,
Founder of
St. Patrick's Church,
Who departed this life on
3rd of October, 1851,
Aged 55 years.

Distinguished by rare talents,
Pre-eminent for Catholic virtue and
charity.
Fervent in the discharge of his duties,
He gained the respect and affection
Of the flock over whom he presided
for five and twenty years.

The congregation of this church
In deep affliction for his loss, and in
grateful
Remembrance of his virtues,
Have placed
This tablet to his memory.
May he rest in peace.

The marble tablet, on the pillar,
facing the pulpit, was uncovered in
1852, on the anniversary of Father
McMahon's death. It bears the follow-
ing inscription :—

D. O. M.
HIC JACET
REV. PATRITIUS McMAHON
HUIUS ECCLESIE CONDITOR
ET XXV FERME ANNIS
CATHOLICORUM HIBERNICORUM
QUEBECI DEGENTIIUM
DILECTISSIMUS PASTOR.

SINGULARI ORATIONIS PRÆDITUS
RELIGIONIS HONORI SEMPER STUDENS,
COMMISSI GREGIS SALUTI,
ETIAM ADVERSA VALETUDINE
CONSTANS INCUBUIT.
OBIT DIE TERTIA OCTOBRI A.D MDCCCLL
LV ANNOS NATUS
REQUIESCAT IN PACE.

FAREWELL TO REVEREND MR. KERRIGAN.

In the midst of their grief, the congregation of St. Patrick's learned that the Reverend Michael Kerrigan, the Reverend Mr McMahon's faithful friend, his assistant from the 10th July, 1847, and a constant attendant at his deathbed, had decided to leave Quebec On the eve of his departure he was presented with the following address:—
"Reverend Sir.

"The Committee of Management of St. Patrick's Church cannot permit you

to leave Quebec without expressing the lively sense which they entertain of the valuable services you have rendered to the Catholic congregation of this city speaking the English language.

“They first owed your presence among them to that Christian and courageous devotion, so characteristic of the Catholic clergy, which in 1847, when the typhus fever of the worst description, aggravated by famine and destitution, raged in this city, arrested your progress, and directed your energies to attend the sick beds of the exiles of our native land, poor, deserted, and infected, death stricken, and death bestowing. Through two seasons of Asiatic cholera (1849-1851) your efforts have been alike unceasing in consoling the sick and administering to the dying the rites of the religion.

“In the pulpit they have heard the truths of religion expounded by you, with the grace of a scholar and the zeal of the divine. Nor can it be forgotten that in his long last illness, you were the esteemed companion and friend of that admirable man, the Reverend Patrick McMahon, the founder of our Church, whose memory will ever be fresh in the hearts of the Irish of Quebec.

“On the part of the congregation,

they beg to present you with the sum of £200, as an earnest of their sympathy, and kind feeling, and while they regret the necessity which removes you from Quebec, be assured, dear Sir, you will bear with you the best wishes of the congregation for your temporal and spiritual welfare.

Signed, JOHN SHARPLES,
President.

MAURICE O'LEARY,
Secretary.

Quebec, 3rd November 1851

The Reverend Mr. Kerrigan replied as follows:—

“GENTLEMEN.—I receive with feelings of the highest gratification and pleasure the kind and complimentary address which you have just presented to me, and return you my most sincere and warmest thanks for the sentiments it contains, and for the valuable and undeserved present which accompanies it. I cannot but feel that you appreciate, altogether beyond their merits, the humble services, I have during my residence amongst you rendered the St. Patrick's congregation, services so far from being irksome to me, though multiplied, were turned into a source of delight by the consoling and Christian spirit in which they were always received.

“If there be one part of your address to which I have cause to refer with pride, though alloyed with sorrow and affliction, more than to any other, it is that wherein you allude to my close connection with that good and saintly minister of God, whose noble spirit has so lately departed from amongst us, and whose loss we shall all so deeply and so long deplore.

“I will not fail to remember, with gratitude, your generosity towards me, and to offer to the Most High my earnest and most fervent prayers for your prosperity in this life and your eternal happiness in the next ”

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

The following gentlemen were members of the Committee during the lifetime of the Reverend Mr. McMahon :

Messrs. John Cannon, Michael Quigley, John Teed, William Downes, William Burke, William Stillings, John Patrick O'Meara, Hugh Maguire, Michael Connolly, Thomas Murphy, (Upper Town), John Byrne, Thomas Murphy (Lower Town), Michael Green, John Molloy, Richard McGrath, John Coote, Michael McAvoy, Hugh Murray, Edmund Baillie O'Callaghan, William O'Brien, Honble William Power.

Elected.

1837—Edward George Cannon, Patrick McInenly.

1838—John Sharples, Chas McDonald.

1839—Edward Ryan, Patrick McGarvey.

1840—Joseph Patrick Bradley, Owen McNally.

1841—William Cronin, Roderick McGillis.

1842—Honble Charles Alleyn, Thaddeus Kelly.

1843—William Richardson, James Prendergast.

1844—John J. Nesbitt, William Quinn.

1845—Honble John Maguire, John Doran.

1846—James Walsh, Joseph Archer.

1847—Charles Sharples, Henry O'Connor.

1848—Patrick McMahon, Thomas Gahan.

1849—Maurice O'Leary, Lawrence Stafford.

1850 Mathew Enright, Miles Kelly.

1851—Benson Bennett, Edward Quinn.

Mr. William Richardson was ordained priest at Quebec on the 18th August, 1850.

And with the death of the Reverend Mr. McMahon closes the history of dear old St Patrick's Church, which stands to this day a monument of Irish perseverance and Protestant liberality.

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